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The relationship of the population with its forest. Results from a long-term socio-cultural forest monitoring in Switzerland.

Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research WSL

WaMos3 monitoring 2019-2022

- Swiss-representative online sample (LINK)
- Analysis of several samples
 - WaMos2 (2010) - WaMos3 (2020)
 - Juveniles-Adults
- Chart visualization of every single item
- PPGIS component (1st time)
- Monitoring report including multiple time series (1978, 1997, 2010 & 2020)
- Final report: 168 pages



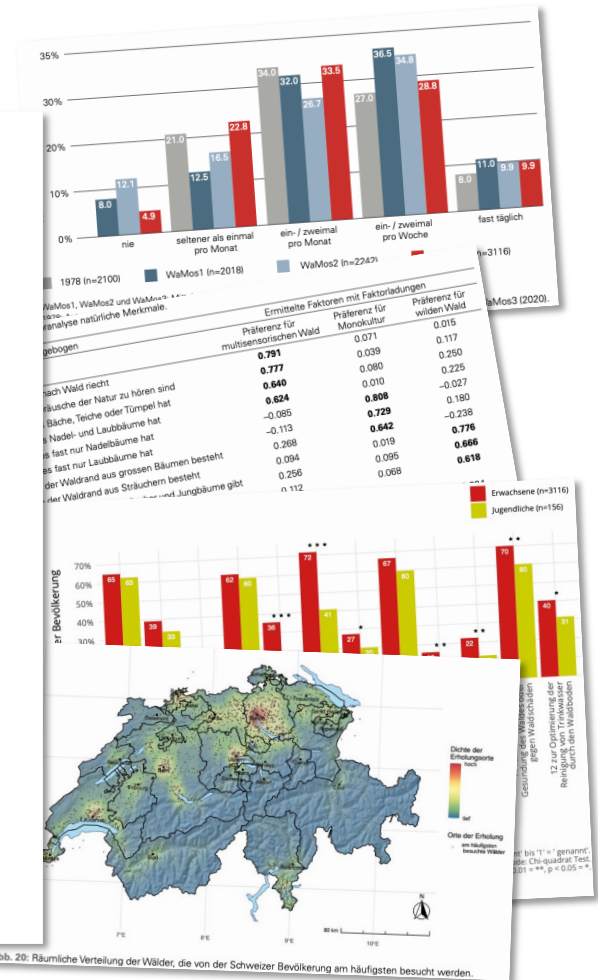
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Das Verhältnis der Schweizer Bevölkerung zum Wald

Waldmonitoring soziokulturell WaMos3 Ergebnisse der nationalen Umfrage

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<https://www.wsl.ch/de/publikationen/default-00e4d596d2.html>

Result 1: Increasing concern among the population

- Major concern regarding **Forest and its associated functions & Environmental aspects in general**
 - Awareness for natural hazards **increasing**
 - Perceived health of the forest **decreasing**
 - Perceived biodiversity **decreasing**
 - Effects of climate change on the forest are **increasingly** perceived
 - Importance of meanings of relevant forest functions have **increased** (ecological-, recreation- and production function)
 - **Rising acceptance** of forest reservates
 - **Rising acceptance** of predators
 - **Rising acceptance** of deadwood in forests
 - Human intervention is **less desired**
 - The forest is perceived as a natural habitat that should be left to its own devices.
- ✓ Expert assessment is shared by a broad population -> good prerequisite for further sensitization.

Result 1: Increasing concern among the population

- Ongoing mismatch in perception of forest area (decrease) versus actual forest area (increase).
- Importance of the protective function in the context of climate change and natural hazards.
 - People seem to know that climate change leads to increased natural hazards. However, the importance of the protective function has not increased (since 2010).
 - People think that **mountain forests** should primarily serve as **habitat for animals and plants**.
- **KNOWLEDGE about** the connection between mountain forest management and the function of the forest as protection against natural hazards of the forest seems **to be lost**. Especially among younger people and contrary to a high self-assessed informedness (sign. effect).

Result 2: Forest related recreation

➤ Reported visitation frequency

- **Less people** do not visit forest areas. -> **more people** visit on a regular basis
- But the visitation frequency is **sinking** (people go there less frequently)
- **No effect on the mean** of visitation frequency (stable for 40 years!)
- BUT: Duration of visitation in the forest **declines** (since WaMos1!)
- **Forest recreation in CH has become an incremental element of everyday's life (at least for some people)**

➤ Reported satisfaction with recreation in the forest

- **Decreasing** since 2010 (WaMos2)
- ...but still on a high level +90% like
- Visitation in forests have a relaxation effect on the population. But this effect is also **decreasing** since 2010
- Perceived disruptions originated by other visitors are **increasing**
- **Reasons for the loss of recreation satisfaction is behind our actual knowledge**



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Thank you very much!

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